

Watergate Leak of Secrets Hit

By Carroll Kilpatrick,
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The White House yesterday again criticized the Senate Watergate committee for leaks from secret testimony and denied that President Nixon discussed campaign contributions in a meeting with Richard G. Danner, a Howard Hughes aide.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren conceded, however, that the President met with Danner and C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo at Camp David last May. Danner paid a "courtesy call" on the President, Warren said.

Danner is manager of Hughes' Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev., and was the man who delivered the \$100,000 from Hughes to Rebozo in two installments in 1969 and 1970.

"Mr. Danner was in Washington to talk with Mr. Rebozo and did pay a brief visit to the President at Camp David," Warren said.

The meeting lasted only 5 or 10 minutes, Warren said, and Danner reported "on the mood of the people in the West."

The Post story quoted a

member of the Watergate committee staff as saying they met for two hours.

Warren was replying to questions about a Washington Post story yesterday reporting that Danner had told the Watergate committee the meeting between the three men took place. The story said that Danner told the committee he never discussed the \$100,000 contribution with the President.

Warren accused "senior staff members" of the Watergate committee of leaking the information "based on testimony given in confidence."

"These stories are well timed and do indeed raise suspicions," the spokesman said. "I would think that senators who belong to this committee would want to find out who released this information and why, and would want to do something about it."

Warren said that the Post story made clear that Danner did not discuss the \$100,000. When read in its entirety, the Post story shows that there was no basis for suspicion, Warren said.

"Mr. Danner has said there was no conversation about campaign contributions or anything," Warren said. "He has known the President for some time. It was a courtesy call."

Rebozo has testified that he returned the \$100,000 after having kept it in a safe deposit box in his Key Biscayne, Fla., bank.